

## **PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDANCE**

The Public Safety Employee Disaster Assistance Program provides a framework to implement the Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000, Section 44-146.17 (Powers and Duties of the Governor), Item 10, that states the following:

*“Whenever, in the opinion of the Governor or his designee, an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a man-made or natural disaster has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area, such as the destruction of a personal residence or the existence of living conditions that imperil the health and safety of an immediate family member of the employee, the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, for up to three calendar months, to the employee to assist the employee with the hardship.”*

The program is designed to only address unmet needs of employees of state or local public safety agencies responding to a man-made or natural disaster that have experienced an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area. The extreme personal or family hardship and associated unmet needs must be documented.

The approval of assistance and amounts awarded are at the discretion of the Governor or his designee. All such decisions are final. Awards cannot duplicate any other resources available or received to alleviate or address the described hardship and associated unmet need(s).

### ***Eligible Employees***

Employees of a state or local public safety agency shall be defined as first responders or those performing like duties that are dispatched or self dispatch to support response and recovery operations. These individuals must be full- or part-time employees of a local or state public safety agency and have an assigned, documented role associated with disaster response and recovery operations, either in the field or in coordinating and supporting field operations. Temporary or contract support employees are not eligible to be considered for this assistance.

### ***Immediate Family Member/Dependents***

The definitions of an immediate family member and dependent will be the same as that used by the Internal Revenue Service.

### ***Application***

Please complete and sign the attached application and submit it along with your supporting documentation by mail to:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management  
Recovery and Mitigation Division  
10501 Trade Court  
Richmond, Virginia 23236  
Attention: Larry Braja

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Braja at (804) 897-6500, 6538 or [larry.braja@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:larry.braja@vdem.virginia.gov).